World Bank's advice on use of external borrowings

363. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has advised India against using external borrowings to offset any export shortage or to stimulate growth to ensure that debt service remains within sustainable limits; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) No such formal advice has been received from the World Bank in this regard. The Government has however been following a prudent policy of external borrowings. The level of country's external indebtedness and the likely burden of debt servicing are constantly kept in view to ensure that the debt servicing liability remains within pruddent limits.

Export of Peacock tail feathers

364. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Board for Wildlife had recommended a quota of one crore Peacock tail feathers for export in view of the fact that the Zoological Survey of India had informed on 31st January 1976 that the estimated number of Peacocks was 2 million and that each Peacock on an average sheds 15 feathers annually ;

(b) what are the reasons for reducing the annual export ceiling to 0.5 crore when the availability is over 31.60 crores;

(c) whether Government propose to restore the ceiling to one crore as specifically recommended by the Board for Wildlife to provide livelihood to people of weaker sections who pick up these shedded tail feathers from the forests; and

(d) the date since when the export of Peacock tail feathers was allowed and whether Government propose to continue the same to fetch precious foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) Indian Board for Wild Life in its meeting held on 31-1-1976 had decided to maintain the quota for export of Peacock Tail Feathers for the year 1976-77 at 1 crore i.e. at the same level at which it was during 1975-76. This decision was based on the fact that Zoological Survey of India had estimated that the number of Peacocks in Rajasthan and Gujarat was nearly 2 millions and also that each Peacock on an average sheds 158 feathers annually.

(b) The matter regarding export quota for Peacock Tail Feathers was again discussed in the second meeting of the Standing Committee on IBWL on 1st July 1982 and it was decided to reduce the annual quota for export of Peacock Tail Feathers to 0.5 crores only. The above decision was based on the recommendation of the Export Committee of IBWL on birds. There were inherent mistakes in the report of ZSI. They had calculated the total production of Peacock Tail Feathers by multiplying the number of feathers shed by Peacocks every year with estimated number of Peacocks in the country. The basic fact that the only male Peacocks produce exportable quality Peacock Tail Feathers seems to remain unconsidered. The male; female ratio in Peacocks varies from 1:3 to 1:5. Therefore the estimated production would be atleast 3 to 5 times less.